

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that claims 5-7 and 9-14 be reconsidered for allowance in view of this Amendment and these Remarks.

Page 11 and the "Assignment" thereon is cancelled.

Claim 7 was objected to because there is no antecedent basis for "the shifting device". Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 6 which provides antecedent basis for "the shifting device".

All the claims other than claims 4, 8 and 9 were rejected on various art grounds. However, claims 4, 8 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-4 have been cancelled and new claim 13 has been added. New claim 13 should be allowed because it is essentially claim 4 in independent form.

Claims 5-7, 10 and 11 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable new claim 13.

Claim 8 has been cancelled and new claim 14 has been added. New claim 14 should be allowed because it is essentially claim 8 in independent form.

Claims 9 and 12 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable new claim 14.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

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Cindy Whetstone 10 July 2003
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